

PROCLAMATION

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

To the Honorable Secretary of State, Austin, Texas:

I herewith hand you H. B. No. 83 passed by the last Legislature for deposit in your office in accordance with law, which I have disapproved and vetoed. My objection to this bill is that it seeks to put the prison system of Texas in the commercial printing business in competition with free labor of the State. While the bill restricts the operation of the prison printing business to state business, yet, if this law should become effective and the state should begin to show a profit in the business, the prison system would soon become a competitor in the general printing business, and it would destroy the livelihood of a considerable portion of our citizenship who already pay taxes to support the government including a million dollar deficiency in the prison operation.

If it be argued that the penitentiary system should go out of the cotton raising business because it might be in competition with free labor, let me call attention to the fact that if the prison system were to make fifteen thousand bales of cotton a year on the convict farms, it would not affect the price of cotton $1/25$ of 1%. While if you put all the labor available in the prison system in the printing business, it would destroy as a gainful occupation the livelihood of every printer in Texas. To avoid any such possibility I feel it my duty to veto this bill, and it is accordingly so done.

Done at Austin, Texas, this the 13th day of June, A. D. 1933.

Miriam A. Ferguson
Governor of Texas